

ALVAH A. EATON.

MAY 25, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MIERS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1363.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1363) granting an increase of pension to Alvah A. Eaton, have examined the same and the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill proposes to increase from \$6 to \$24 per month the pension of Alvah A. Eaton, of Portis, Kans.

The Senate report states the facts, and is as follows:

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1363) granting an increase of pension to Alvah A. Eaton, have examined the same and report:

A similar bill was reported favorably in the first session of the Fifty-fourth Congress, passed the Senate, and reported favorably by the House. The Senate report was as follows, which your committee adopt, and recommend the passage of the bill:

"Alvah A. Eaton enlisted in Company A, Twenty-eighth Regiment New York Infantry Volunteers, on the 22d day of May, 1861, and was discharged on disability certificate July 24, 1861. He subsequently reenlisted in the Twelfth Independent Battery, New York Light Artillery, on the 4th day of April, 1862, and served until mustered out on the 4th day of April, 1865.

"In June, 1861, he contracted measles while still in the service, which settled on his lungs and was the cause of his being discharged, while still very sick, in July, 1861. He was sick for some time, and after getting well reenlisted in the spring of 1862, and was shortly afterwards taken down with typhoid pneumonia and was ill and unfit for duty for more than one year.

"He is now pensioned for the aforesaid disabilities at the rate of \$6 per month, they having resulted in disease of lungs, disease of throat, lumbago, and rheumatism generally. About four years ago the claimant first noticed a growth on his tongue, which, upon examination, was found to be of cancerous origin. This has increased very rapidly until now the growth has assumed the size of a silver half dollar, covering nearly the whole of his tongue. The whole tongue is terribly inflamed and ulcerated, and it has become impossible for the claimant to eat solid food and subsists almost entirely upon liquid diet. The medical examinations that have been held from time to time since first he was pensioned show that the claimant's throat has been affected by his lung trouble and that the disability has increased until his throat is in a terrible condition—highly ulcerated. He has a bad case of post-nasal catarrh, affecting all his nasal organs and his throat. The evidence on file shows conclusively that the claimant's disability is incurable; that the cancerous growth is growing all the time, and that it is only a question of a short time

when it will result in his death. The pain is so great at times that the claimant can hardly bear it.

"He can perform no manual labor whatever because of his disability, and is compelled to rest quietly. He is absolutely without means of support other than the small pension he now enjoys.

"The object of this bill is to grant him a pension at the rate of \$24 per month for his remaining days, which are certainly not many. He has been confined at the National Military Home at Leavenworth, Kans., for some time, but his disability has become so great that he has been removed to his home to spend his last days.

"In consideration of this man's disability, which at best is a horrible condition, your committee are of the opinion that he ought to receive some benefit during his few remaining days and recommend the passage of the bill."

The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 7 strike out the word "grant" and insert in lieu thereof the word "pay."

